

Sevier County

COMMISSIONERS:

Gary B. Mason
Ralph Okerlund
Doug Peterson

Administration Building
250 North Main
Richfield, Utah 84701
(435) 893-0400
FAX (435) 896-8888

Steven C. Wall - Clerk/Auditor
Gail DeMille - Assessor
Shawn M. Fuellenbach - Treasurer
Jayrene B. Nielsen - Recorder

Office of the Secretary
Case Control Unit
STB Finance Docket 34075
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, NW
Washington D.C 20423-0001

STB Finance Docket No. 34075 – Environmental Comments

*Six County Association of Governments - Construction and
Operation Exemption - Rail Line between Irevan and Salina, Utah*

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Sevier County Commission hereby expresses its full support for the Central Utah Rail Project.

As elected officials, we here from people both for and against this project. We understand the reasons for some being opposed and appreciate their concerns. After reviewing the proposed or preferred alignment, we believe it represents the best place for this railroad to be built. It minimizes as much as possible the splitting of irrigated farmlands and impacts on the community.

Due to other projects we have been involved with, we believe the proposed route is also the least harmful to the natural environment and wildlife. It also represents the least amount of impact to communities and residents.

The existing industries in our area need more transportation infrastructure to remain viable. We have a strong presence with trucking but need to reestablish rail as we once had 20 years ago. Our local economy has suffered because we lack this basic piece of infrastructure needed to promote industry and manufacturing.

It is important to note that we view this project as a job retention and job creation effort. Over 500 jobs are directly related to mining and we need to ensure that our existing industry can remain viable. We also believe this additional infrastructure will make our area more attractive to new industry thus opening new employment opportunities.

Surface Transportation Board
Central Utah Rail Project
Page 2

We hope that the STB can complete its review as quickly as possible so we can move to the next phase.


Sincerely,



Ralph Okerlund
Commission Chair



Gary Mason
Commissioner



Doug Peterson
Commissioner